

Good afternoon Chair Lively, Vice Chairs McIntire and Ruiz, and members of the committee, for the record my name is Thomas McGregor and I serve as the Executive Director of the Phoenix School of Roseburg. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today. I will keep my comments brief.

Our agency serves as the hub for youth re-engagement and workforce training for ten various communities in Douglas County. My predecessor, Ron Breyne, directly served on the founding advisory committee of the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps in the early 1990s. Today, Phoenix School operates an Oregon Youth Corps program and an Oregon Conservation Corps program as well as maintains a strong relationship with the Southwest Oregon Workforce Investment Board to manage Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act employment placements for youth and adults.

My day to day represents alignment and coordination of these incredible programs in Oregon. Our charter high school sources graduating OYC program members to the OCC fuels reduction training program where youth are preparing for this summer's wild fire season. Our workforce program supports many of these placements and has provided appropriate clothing such as 'corks' to these youth. We have also many individuals new to our agency as adults. Individuals living on the street have been welcomed into our doors, joined the workforce training program, enlisted in the Conservation Corps, received case management to housing services with sister organizations and now are excited again for their future. One municipal audit, one insurance policy, one admin team, one board of directors, etc. for Phoenix oversees this incredible blending and braiding of resources. We believe for the Douglas Community this saves time, resources, and mobilizes innovation further and faster.

My goal in sharing these examples is to highlight in action the Oregon Youth Works program and how it is building capacity in local community-based organizations and achieving tremendous gains for communities. As a legacy OYCC program provider, we agree the marriage of advisory councils can work as the program providers often are one and the same in rural communities. We may achieve advantage to follow a single advisement entity to appropriately mobilize our voice when feels prudent.

Looking ahead, Oregon's communities are recovering from the pandemic and the investments from Salem have made positive impacts. I do believe there remains critical discussions ahead and look forward to working with a united advisory council to achieve necessary improvements and synergy. Thank you for your time today.